

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (original) A fastener for a pipe or the like, comprising a base portion, a pipe holding portion connected integrally with said base portion, and a stud engagement portion disposed in said base portion and adapted to engage with a stud standing on a workpiece such as an automobile body, wherein engaging of said stud engagement portion with said stud allows an elongated article such as a pipe held in said pipe holding portion to be mounted on said workpiece, said-fastener further comprising:

a support portion formed on said base portion and outside said stud engagement portion for supporting said stud engagement portion; and a thin connection portion disposed between said support portion and said stud engagement portion to connect them with each other in the vicinity of an inlet of a stud receiving hole formed in said stud engagement portion, said thin connection portion being formed to connect, to said support portion, the entire outer circumference of said stud engagement portion adjacent to said inlet, whereby said stud engagement portion is connected to said support portion by only said thin connection portion.

2. (original) A fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein said stud engagement portion includes a pair of opposed side walls each extending from said inlet in an insertion direction of said stud, and a bottom wall connecting the respective ends of said side walls with each other, and

said support portion includes a pair of opposed side walls outside the side walls of said stud engagement portion to surround said stud engagement portion, and a bottom wall apart from and outside the bottom wall of said stud engagement portion, and

wherein the bottom walls of said stud engagement portion and said support portion include a combination of a hole and a protrusion to be received in said hole, said combination serving to restrict the movement of said stud engagement portion relative to said support portion in a predetermined range.

3. (original) A fastener as defined in claim 2, wherein the bottom wall of said support portion is formed with a panel engagement portion on the side opposite to said stud engagement portion.

4. (original) A fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein said stud engagement portion is formed with a stopper for preventing said support portion from moving in the direction of getting out of said stud up to the extent of causing the destruction of said thin connection portion.

5. (currently amended) A fastener adaptable for engagement with ~~for~~ a pipe or the like, comprising:

a base portion~~[[,]]~~ ;

a pipe holding portion connected integrally with said base portion~~, and~~ ;

a stud engagement portion provided at said base portion and adapted to engage with a stud standing on a workpiece such as an automobile body, wherein ~~engaging~~ engagement of said stud engagement portion with said stud allows an elongated article such as a pipe held in said pipe holding portion to be mounted on said workpiece~~, said fastener further comprising~~ ;

a support portion integrally formed ~~on~~ with said base portion and outside said stud engagement portion for supporting said stud engagement portion;

a ~~thin~~ connection portion disposed between said support portion and said stud engagement portion to connect them with each other in the vicinity of an inlet of a stud receiving hole formed in said stud engagement portion, said ~~thin~~ connection portion being formed to connect, to said support portion, the entire outer circumference of said stud engagement portion adjacent to said inlet; and

a connection piece provided between said support portion and said stud engagement portion to connect them with each other at an small area in a position extending from said inlet in a stud insertion direction, whereby said stud engagement portion is connected to said support portion by only both said ~~thin~~ connection portion and said connection piece.

6. (currently amended)A The fastener as defined in claim 5, wherein said stud engagement portion includes a pair of opposed side walls each extending from said inlet in the stud insertion direction, and a bottom wall connecting ~~the~~ a respective ends of each of said side walls with each other, and

said support portion includes a pair of opposed side walls outside the side walls of said stud engagement portion to surround said stud engagement portion, and a bottom wall spaced apart from and outside the bottom wall of said stud engagement portion, and

wherein said connection piece connects the respective central regions of the bottom walls of said stud engagement portion and said support-portion with each other.

7. (currently amended)A The fastener as defined in claim 6, wherein a thickness of the bottom wall of said stud engagement portion is ~~formed in a thin-walled structure~~ less than a thickness of each of the side walls.

8. (currently amended)A The fastener as defined in claim 6, wherein said wall of said support portion ~~is formed with~~ further comprises a panel engagement portion on ~~the~~ a side opposite to said stud engagement portion.

9. (currently amended)A The fastener as defined in claim 5, wherein said stud engagement portion ~~is formed with~~ further comprises a stopper for preventing said support portion from moving in ~~the~~ a direction of ~~getting out of~~ release from said stud. ~~up to the extent of causing the destruction of said thin connection portion.~~

10. (new) The fastener of Claim 5, wherein said stud engagement portion further comprises a plurality of engagement pawls configurable to engage said stud.

11. (new) The fastener of Claim 10, wherein said engagement pawls further comprise two pairs of opposed engagement pawls.

12. (new) The fastener of Claim 11, wherein said engagement pawls of a first one of said pairs are offset from said engagement pawls of a second one of said pairs in a height direction of said fastener to operably engage a thread pitch of said fastener.

13. (new) A fastener adaptable for engagement with at least one pipe, comprising:

a base portion;

a pipe holding portion integrally connected to the base portion;

a stud engagement portion disposed in the base portion and adapted to engage with a stud extending from a workpiece through a stud engagement aperture of the stud engagement portion;

a support portion integrally joined to the base portion outside of the stud engagement portion operable to support the stud engagement portion;

a connection portion integrally joining the support portion to the stud engagement portion adjacent the stud engagement aperture, the connection portion integrally connecting an outer circumference of the stud engagement portion adjacent to the inlet; and

a plurality of engagement pawls integrally joined to the stud engagement portion and configurable to engage said stud; and

a connection piece integrally joining the support portion to the stud engagement portion, the connection piece located at a wall of the stud engagement portion opposed to the stud receiving aperture;

wherein the stud engagement portion is connected to the support portion only by the connection portion and the connection piece.

14. (new) The fastener of Claim 13, wherein the engagement pawls of the pairs of opposed engagement pawls are offset from each other in a height direction of the fastener to operably engage a thread pitch of the fastener.

15. (new) The fastener of Claim 13, wherein the stud engagement portion further comprises a pair of protrusions each operable to engage within one of a pair of apertures in the support portion.

16. (new) The fastener of Claim 13, wherein the stud engagement portion further comprises:

a pair of opposed side walls; and

a pair of opposed columns disposed between the opposed side walls.

17. (new) The fastener of claim 16, wherein each of the side walls and the columns further include at least one stopper, wherein the stopper operably limits a displacement of the support portion with respect to the stud engagement portion.